

Old First Presbyterian Church



Sunday, September 17, 2023

Worship Through Praising God

Please fill out a guest card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.

Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.

** At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude Musette from Arcadian Idyll Edward H. Lemare (1865-1934)

Welcome and Church Life

Introit South African Song

Transcribed by John L. Bell (born 1949)

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

John L. Bell (born 1949)

***Call to Worship**

Leader The word of God came to Jonah.
People The word of God comes to us:
Leader Go
People despite your fears.
Leader Speak
People the truth of God.
Leader Love
People your neighbor and your enemy.
Leader Forgive
People as you have been forgiven.
Leader Receive
People grace upon grace overflowing from the fullness of God.

***Hymn 611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore thee**

- 1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of Glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee;
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.
- 3 Mortals, join the happy chorus
which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

**Prayer of
Confession**

Erwin Barron

**Holy God, we would rather proclaim death to our enemies,
than see them forgiven and redeemed.
Forgive our hardness of heart, O God,
and our reluctance to see your divine image
in those who hate and despise us.**

Silent Confession

**Teach us to love our enemies
that our lives may proclaim your truth—
that love is stronger than hate
and mercy is greater than vengeance.
We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace.
Amen.**

***Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader The one who calls us to this place
calls us to reconciliation through grace.
People **God will not deny a repentant heart
or an open spirit.**
Leader Know that you are forgiven.
People **We will walk in the new way
that is made known to us in God's love.**

***Hymn 184 Calm to the Waves**

We sing the text twice.

**Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind.
Jesus whispers, "Peace, be still."
Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end.
In stillness, hear his voice.**

Offering *Ushers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering electronically using the kiosk in the narthex.*

Anthem Jonah and the Whale

W.E.S.

In the bible we are told of a prophet who was called
to a city that was steeped in awful sin;
all the people in that place were devoid of saving grace,
and the prophet seemed afraid to enter in.

Refrain Over there, over there, in that land bright and fair,
 oh, he'll tell me all about it over there;
 on the hallelujah strand I'll take Jonah by the hand,
 and he'll tell me all about it over there.

Then this prophet forth was sent that old Nineveh might repent,
 but instead of that to Tarshish he set sail;
oh! the winds began to blow, overboard did Jonah go,
 and he found a mercy-seat inside the whale.

In the cold and briny deep tears of grief did Jonah weep,
 and the big fish threw him out upon the shore;
then he gladly went his way, preached to Nineveh night and day,
 and he did not care to backslide anymore.

Oh, some people don't believe that a whale could him receive,
 but that does not make my song at all untrue;
there are whales on every side, with their big mouths open wide—
 just take care, my friend, or one will swallow you.

Many souls are tossed about by the whales of fear and doubt,
 but the Savior wants to take them by the hand.
If they will his voice obey, he will save them right away,
 and will guide them safely to the promised land.

W.F.I.

***Hymn 609**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Time with
Our Children**

***The Peace**

Leader Peace be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

Scripture Jonah 3-4
Leader For the Word of God in scripture,
 For the Word of God within us,
 For the Word of God among us,
People **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Through Holy Communion

**Invitation to the
Lord's Table**

**The Great
Thanksgiving**

Leader The Lord be with you

People And also with you.

Leader Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The leader continues the prayer...

The Lord's Our Father, who art in heaven,

Prayer hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom

and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**The Words of
Institution**

The Bread *All are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.*

and the Cup *Simply follow the directions of the leaders.*

The communion trays have wine and grape juice.

The inner clear cups hold wine. The outer purple cups hold grape juice.

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

- *Hymn 435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**
- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.**

 - 2 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Words,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.**

***Charge and
Benediction**

All are invited downstairs for our town hall meeting. Please proceed to the fellowship hall after the charge and benediction, get yourself coffee and snacks, and then move to a table so we can begin as soon as possible.

If you are joining us on-line and want to be part of the town hall discussion, you can also join the meeting via Zoom. Here's the Zoom invitation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81397755367?pwd=MWRka1ZZVUlhVkJmV3EyWW10T1hvUT09>

Old First Presbyterian Church

**Sharing God's Love, Welcome, and Justice
on Our Corner, in Our City, and in the World**

www.oldfirst.org · 415-776-5552 · Find Us on Facebook and YouTube

Today's Coffee Hour

Tom Culp has given today's coffee hour in memory of Mary and Frank Culp.

Old First Town Hall, Today

Join us immediately after worship today for an Old First town hall meeting. This will be the first of many conversations as we begin to explore and dream about where and how God is calling us to share God's love, to be faithful disciples of Jesus, and to offer welcome and justice on our corner, in our city, and in the world. We'll start today's discussion with two simple questions: What are your fears for Old First? What are your hopes for Old First?

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4th Saturday Community Dinner, September 23

This month's 4th Saturday Community Dinner falls on Saturday, September 23. Can you help serve the meal and feast with our guests at the dinner? Volunteers are welcomed from 4:30 pm on. Let us know you can help: 4thsaturdaydinners@oldfirst.org

This Week at Old First

Sunday September 17

after worship Old First Town Hall, Fellowship Hall

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday September 19

6:00 pm Session, On-Line

Friday September 22

8:00 pm O1C: Ensemble For These Times "Transformations," soprano, strings,
piano

Saturday September 23

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry: Volunteer today!

Visit Old First's website for a link to the sign-up page: www.oldfirst.org

1:00 pm Presbyterian Women, On-Line

5:15 pm 4th Saturday Community Meal, Fellowship Hall

Sunday September 24

11:00 am Worship

4:00 pm O1C: Ives Collective, strings, clarinet and piano, music of Gabriel Fauré
and Johannes Brahms

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

Old First Presbyterian Church Staff
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The Reverend Maggi Henderson Pastor

The Reverend Erwin C. Barron Parish Associate

The Reverend Lisa Robeck Parish Associate

Larry Marietta Music Director

Jarron Carlson Composer in Residence

Brad Peterson Office Admin

Kristi Hoerauf Wedding Coordinator